

BULLETIN

TO:

Workers' Compensation Insurance Carriers
Third Party Administrators
Self-insured Employers

FROM:

Joyce A. Sewell, Director, Industrial Accidents

DATE:

June 6, 2002

RE:

Rule Changes
2002-2003 Average Weekly Wage
Employers' First Report of Injury

Rule Changes:

- 1) Adoption of the 2002 RBRVS as of June 1, 2002. Significant changes in conversion factors are an increase in Anesthesiology from \$37.00 per unit to \$41.00 per unit and an increase to Physician Assistants from 65% to 75 % of rates paid to physicians. All other conversion factors remain the same.
- 2) Burial Rates - Increase to \$8,000 for deaths occurring on or after 3/06/02.
- 3) Meal Reimbursement Rates: As of June 15, 2002, the new rates are: Breakfast - \$6.00, Lunch - \$9.00 and Dinner - \$15.00.

Average Weekly Wage

As of July 1, 2002, the Average Weekly Wage will raise to \$562.00. This is the maximum amount payable for temporary total disability from July 1, 2002, through June 30, 2003.

Employers' First Report of Injury - Form 122

The Commission is adopting the IAIABC new injury report as OSHA now requires that the injury report include the employer's case number from the Employer 300 Injury Log. The report box this number is in is titled "OSHA Log Number". The employer assigns a case number to an injury. The Labor Commission requests that the employer number injury cases to identify the year of the injury. For example if John Smith is your first injury of the year the number should identify the year and injury number such as 00102 which would indicate that this injury is the first in the year 02. By allowing two zeros before the one the employer can go up to 999 injuries for the year without effecting the year. This is the only major change on the injury report so if a carrier has a small number of old forms to use the employer is to be instructed to add their OSHA case # at the top of the form. We would expect the employers to use the new form no later than September 1,

2002. The employer instructions on completing the form is accompanying this bulletin for the carrier to instruct an employer on how to complete the form in the event the employer is unclear in filling it out. The injury information can be sent electronically to the carrier or called in but the Commission must receive the employer report within 7 days of a reported injury. The employee is also to receive a copy of the injury report with the Commission employee information that is found on the back of the employee's copy of the injury report.